



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, June 27, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

Most networks led with reports that shogi player Sota Fujii set a new record of 29 consecutive victories on Monday. Other top news included a report that a Kyoto Shimbun reporter was arrested on charges of possessing illegal drugs on June 22.

## SECURITY

### F-35s land in Okinawa for first time

Ryukyu Shimpo led with a report that two F-35 stealth fighters landed at Kadena AB on Monday. This was the first time for the aircraft to land in Okinawa. The aircraft arrived from MCAS Iwakuni and landed at Kadena at around 2:16 p.m. They left the base around 4:46 p.m. after refueling. The Marines notified the governments of municipalities surrounding Kadena AB through the Defense Ministry's Okinawa bureau of the arrival of the F-35s. According to the Kadena government, 100.2 decibels of noise, the level of noise produced by a passing train, was detected in the Yara district and 71.6 decibels and 74.0 decibels, the level of noise on a busy street, were separately detected in another area in connection with the two F35s. Noting that the municipality received from local residents complaints about the noise, the paper wrote that local opposition to the increased base-hosting burden connected to Kadena will likely grow.

Okinawa Times front-paged a similar report, adding that although Okinawa Area Coordinator Lawrence Nicholson gave Vice Governor Tomikawa prior notification of the planned landing of F-35s

on June 19, the lieutenant general did not notify either the vice governor or the local municipalities of the landing on Monday.

Quoting Prime Minister Abe as stating at a ceremony marking the end of the Battle of Okinawa on June 23 that he will do everything he can to reduce the base-hosting burden on Okinawa, the papers wrote that local residents are becoming increasingly skeptical about the premier's determination because operations at Kadena have been increasing instead of decreasing, as evidenced by the landing of F-35s, parachute drop drills, and continued use of a Navy ramp.

### **Okinawa government to boycott 18th Wing change of command ceremony**

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the Okinawa Prefectural Government decided on Monday not to participate in an 18th Wing change of command ceremony scheduled for July 10 at Kadena AB. The prefecture made the decision in protest of the parachute drop drills and continued use of a Navy ramp at the base. The governor, the vice governor, the chief of the governor's office, and the head of the section in charge of base issues will all decline the invitations they received. The paper wrote that it is unusual for the prefecture to be completely absent from a change of command ceremony, as the past three ceremonies have been attended by at least the vice governor and the section chief.

- [MSDF's most advanced airplane fails to arrive for Paris air show](#) (Asahi Online)
- [Ginowan to set up fund for developing Futenma base site](#) (Sankei)
- [PSIA sounds alarm about potential terrorism against Japanese](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Yokosuka residents return favor to Fitzgerald crew](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Okinawa Marine's vehicle strikes utility pole](#) (Okinawa Times)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Japan, China to hold maritime talks on June 29-30**

NHK reported that Foreign Minister Kishida announced today that the governments of Japan and China will hold working-level talks on maritime issues on June 29 and 30 in Fukuoka and expressed hope that the talks will further deepen the relationship of trust. The network said officials of the two nations are expected to exchange views on an air-maritime communication mechanism between their defense authorities and a project for the joint development of gas fields in the East China Sea. Kishida was quoted as saying: "We will exchange views on a wide range of issues in which we share an interest. I hope the talks will develop trust between the two nations and strengthen bilateral cooperation."

### **U.S., Japan agree to urge China to play greater role in dealing with DPRK**

NHK reported on a meeting between Deputy Secretary of State Sullivan and Vice Foreign Minister Sugiyama at the State Department on Monday, saying that the two officials agreed on the need to apply additional pressure on North Korea and confirmed their plan to urge China to play a greater role in this regard. The network said that in response to Sugiyama's remarks that Japan hopes to further strengthen the bonds of its ironclad alliance with the U.S., Deputy Secretary Sullivan stated that Washington hopes to cooperate closely with Tokyo in dealing with regional and global issues.

The Japanese official explained Japan's plans to steadily implement the comfort women agreement with South Korea in view of the need for trilateral cooperation with the U.S. in responding to North Korea's nuclear and missile development and that the two officials agreed on the importance of implementing the agreement. The broadcaster said that Sugiyama sought Washington's understanding of Japan's position on the comfort women issue ahead of a U.S.-ROK summit to be held later this week.

### **Japan decides on tougher cargo inspections to stem DPRK's weapons program**

NHK reported that the GOJ approved at a cabinet meeting this morning a policy to tighten inspections of cargo ships bound for North Korea to prevent its import of materials that could be used to produce weapons of mass destruction by revising the existing order for implementing the relevant law. Under the current enforcement order, the Japan Coast Guard can inspect cargo ships entering North Korea that carry items on a list prepared by the GOJ. However, Japan will take a "catch all" approach, under which inspections will be conducted for items even though they are not included in the government list. The GOJ plans to begin implementing the revised order in mid-July.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told a news conference that Japan will implement UN Security Council resolutions more stringently through the new measure. Foreign Minister Kishida told a separate news conference that it is important to reduce the DPRK's import of materials, technology, and foreign currency in order to stem its nuclear and missile development.

### **Trade Minister Seko to visit U.S.**

Nikkei reported online on the disclosure by Trade Minister Seko today that he will visit Washington tomorrow through Saturday to discuss with Commerce Secretary Ross, USTR Lighthizer, and other U.S. officials bilateral cooperation on trade rulemaking, the digital economy, and infrastructure investment. Seko expressed hope that his visit will contribute to the U.S.-Japan economic dialogue.

- [\*\*U.S. agrees Japan, Seoul should implement "comfort women" deal\*\*](#) (Kyodo News)
- [\*\*Russia offers Japan joint-venture proposal for Kurils\*\*](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [\*\*Japan, Russia to start 1st joint study on disputed isles\*\*](#) (Kyodo News)

- [As U.S. and China cozy up to each other, Japan left out in the cold](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Column: U.S. public fed up with reporting on Trump](#) (Yomiuri)
- [CCS Suga: Gov't to give consular support to ex-SDF member held in ROK](#) (Sankei)
- [Insight into the World / ASEAN engaging in shrewd diplomacy](#) (The Japan News)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 26](#) (Nikkei)
- [Tokyo assembly poll seen as major test for Abe administration](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Abe campaigns for Tokyo assembly election at LDP gathering to avoid jeers](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly race](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LDP, opposition officials negative on Abe's plan to submit constitutional revision proposals](#) (Nikkei)
- [Keidanren chief gives candid advice to Abe](#) (Asahi)
- [Leaders of municipalities designated as special zones petition for deregulation](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Motomichi Kamohara appointed vice minister of health, labor and welfare](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Hideka Morimoto named vice minister of environment](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: PM's scandals](#) (Akahata)

## OPINION POLLS

- [Tokyo federations of six national political parties say "SOFA should be revised," Tokyo Shimbun poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Seven main political parties forward-looking about hate speech ordinance, Tokyo Shimbun poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## ECONOMY

### **Cabinet minister dismisses speculation about government role in Toshiba spinoff**

Nikkei reported online on press remarks this morning by Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Seko, who denied the allegation that his ministry played a key role behind the scene when Toshiba selected a U.S.-Japan-ROK consortium as the preferred bidder for its semiconductor business. The GOJ official said: "It is impossible for the government to intervene to press a private company to make a policy decision. The decision [on Toshiba Memory] was made by Toshiba executives while taking into account various factors."

- [EU hopes for free trade deal with Japan "very soon"](#) (Kyodo News)
- [LDP submits request for consideration of Japan-EU EPA tariffs on dairy and lumber](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan to lower domestic wheat markup to compensate for EPA with EU](#) (Nikkei)

## EDUCATION

- [U.S., U.K. decline in popularity as study abroad destinations](#) (Nikkei)

## SOCIETY

### **Parents struggle to let go of grownup children**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on popular Japanese manga artist Rieko Saibara, who recently ended her cartoon series "Mainichi Kaasan" (Everyday Mother) that had been carried by Mainichi Shimbun for the last 16 years. In the cartoon, Saibara depicted the daily struggles and joys of raising two small kids. Saibara decided to end the series after her daughter turned 16 and her son entered college. She declared that she was "graduating" from motherhood after teaching her children how to "make a living" and "stand up on their own two feet." Now that her children have grown up, she has decided to stop concerning herself with their daily activities and respect their own lifestyles and decisions. The program said, however, that there are many Japanese parents who seem to have difficulty distancing themselves from their grownup children, adding that many of them are helping their children find jobs and marriage partners.

- [Japan's child poverty rate eases but 1 in 7 children remains poor](#) (Kyodo News)
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